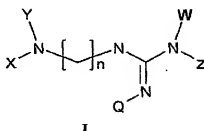


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Formula (I) compounds~~ A compound of the formula:



in which:

Z may be selected from: H; saturated or unsaturated, straight or branched alkyl, consisting of from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, ~~possibly~~ optionally substituted with alkoxy and halogens; aryl or heteroaryl, mono- or bicyclic, containing one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, ~~possibly~~ optionally substituted with halogens, NO<sub>2</sub>, OH, alkyls and alkoxy, ~~possibly~~ optionally substituted with halogens; arylalkyl or heteroarylalkyl, where the saturated or unsaturated alkyl residue consists of from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, mono- or bicyclic, containing one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, ~~possibly~~ optionally substituted with halogens, NO<sub>2</sub>, OH, carboxy, alkyls and alkoxy, ~~possibly~~ optionally substituted with halogens; or, together with W, may form a cycle, ~~possibly~~ optionally containing one or more heteroatoms;

W ~~may be~~ equal to H or, together with Z, may form a cycle, possibly optionally containing one or more heteroatoms;

$n = 0-10$  ;

Q ~~may be~~ selected from the Z groups listed above;

X and Y ~~may be~~ the same or different and ~~may be~~ selected from the Z groups listed above;

~~In addition,~~ X may be a substituted amino-imino of the type formula:



where Z1 ~~may be~~ selected from the Z groups listed above;

or X ~~may be~~ an R-CO group and, with nitrogen, may form a group:



where R ~~may be~~ selected from the Z groups listed above or -OZ or -NZ ;

when  $n = 0$ , the X-N-Y group ~~may be~~ replaced by an H;

and their pharmacologically acceptable salts, the racemic mixtures, the single

enantiomers, stereoisomers and geometric isomers and tautomers,

with the proviso that the formula (I) compound is not N- (4-aminobutyl)-N'- (γ,γ - dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2369) or N-(γ,γ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST 2527).

2. (Currently Amended) A Compound according to claim 1, in which the Z group is a saturated or unsaturated alkyl that contains from 1 to 7 carbon atoms.

3. (Currently Amended) A Compound according to claim 1, in which the Z group is an arylalkyl, with the aryl possibly optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, in which preferably the alkyl bound to the aryl to form the arylalkyl group consists of a number of carbon atoms ranging from 1 to 5.

4. (Currently Amended) A Compound according to claim 1, in which X and Y are equal to hydrogen and n is equal to 4-7.

5. (Currently Amended) A Compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

- i. N-(6-aminoheptyl)-N'-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2370);
- ii. N-(4-aminobutyl)-N'-(3-phenylpropyl)guanidine (ST2521);
- iii. N-(4-aminobutyl)-N'-(4-fluorobenzyl)guanidine dichlorhydrate (ST2524);
- iv. N-allyl-N'-(4-aminobutyl)guanidine dichlorhydrate (ST2525);
- v. 1,4-bis-[N-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimethylallyl)guanidino]-butane dimethane sulphonate (ST2526);

- vi. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(6-amminoetil)-4-metil-1-piperazinocarbossimidamide (ST 2601);
- vii. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(6-amminoetil)-1-piperidinocarbossimidamide (ST 2602);
- viii. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(4-amminobutil)-4-metil-1-piperazinocarbossimidamide (ST2658);
- ix. N-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimetilallil)-N'-(5-amminopentil)guanidina metansolfonata (ST2574);
- and
- x. N-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimetilallil)-N'-(7-amminoetil)guanidina metansolfonata (ST2575).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A Pharmaceutical compositions containing at least one compound according to claim 1 in a mixture with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable vehicles and/or excipients.

8. (Currently Amended) A Composition according to claim 7, in the form of tablets, rigid or soft capsules, powders, solutions, suspensions, syrups, solid forms for extempore liquid preparations, emulsions, liposomal preparations, forms for the controlled release of the active ingredient, tablets coated with appropriate layers, microencapsulated powders, complexes with cyclodextrin, depot forms, for example, subcutaneous ones, such as depot injections or implants.

9. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 8, which can be administered orally or parenterally.

10.-12. (Canceled).

13. (New) A method for lowering serum glucose and serum lipids comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compound of claim 1.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, in which the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

- i. N-(6-aminohexyl)-N'-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2370);
- ii. N-(4-aminobutyl)-N'-(3-phenylpropyl)guanidine (ST2521);
- iii. N-(4-aminobutyl)-N'-(4-fluorobenzyl)guanidine dichlorhydrate (ST2524);
- iv. N-allyl-N'-(4-aminobutyl)guanidine dichlorhydrate (ST2525);
- v. 1, 4-bis-[N-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimethylallyl)guanidino]-butane dimethane sulphonate (ST2526);
- vi. N-(4-aminobutyl)-N'-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2369);
- vii. N-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2527);

- viii. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(6-amminoetil)-4-metil-1-piperazinocarbossimmidammide (ST 2601);  
ix. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(6-amminoetil)-1-piperidinocarbossimmidammide (ST 2602);  
x. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(4-amminobutil)-4-metil-1-piperazinocarbossimmidammide (ST2658);  
xi. N-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimetilallil)-N'-(5-amminopentil)guanidina metansolfonata (ST2574);  
and  
xii. N-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimetilallil)-N'-(7-amminoetil)guanidina metansolfonata (ST2575).
15. (New) A method for preventing or treating diabetes, type 2 diabetes, and its complications, syndrome X, insulin resistance, hyperlipidaemias and obesity comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compound according to claim 1.
16. (New) The method according to claim 15, in which the compound is selected from the group consisting of:
- i. N-(6-aminoheptil)-N'-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimetilallil)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2370);  
ii. N-(4-aminobutil)-N'-(3-phenylpropil)guanidine (ST2521);  
iii. N-(4-aminobutil)-N'-(4-fluorobenzil)guanidine dichlorhydrate (ST2524);  
iv. N-allyl-N'-(4-aminobutil)guanidine dichlorhydrate (ST2525);

- v. 1, 4-bis-[N-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimethylallyl)guanidino]-butane dimethane sulphonate (ST2526);
- vi. N-(4-aminobutyl)-N'-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2369);
- vii. N-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimethylallyl)guanidine methane sulphonate (ST2527);
- viii. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(6-amminoesil)-4-metil-1-piperazinocarbossimmidammide (ST 2601);
- ix. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(6-amminoesil)-1-piperidinocarbossimmidammide (ST 2602);
- x. N-(4-fluorofenil)-N'-(4-amminobutil)-4-metil-1-piperazinocarbossimmidammide (ST2658);
- xi. N-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimetilallil)-N'-(5-amminopentil)guanidina metansolfonata (ST2574);
- and
- xii. N-( $\gamma,\gamma$ -dimetilallil)-N'-(7-amminoetil)guanidina metansolfonata (ST2575).